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Colchester Barracks, 20th March, 1798.

SIR,

IN addition to the Return which was some time ago required of the Number of Men, Horses, and Waggon's throughout the County of SUFFOLK, it will be necessary to trouble the Magistrates and Deputy Lieutenants to use their Influence in their respective Districts and Parishes to methodize and arrange this Force, which, properly applied and well managed, may be rendered of the utmost Service to the Public, in case of Invasion; but which, without some previous Thought and Regulation, will be found upon an Emergency utterly incapable of being turned to any useful Purpose.

As it is an Object of great Importance to effect this as expeditiously as possible, I will shortly state my Ideas upon the Subject, which I have already had an opportunity of communicating to several Magistrates at IPSWICH and BURY, with regard to the Arrangement of Waggon's and their Drivers, in the different Parishes, whenever they may be called upon to act for the Public Service, and which would only happen in case of an actual Invasion.

The Returns which have already been received, are in themselves a sufficient Proof of the Power, Wealth, and Population of the County, to leave no Doubt of our Success in baffling the Attempts of an invading Enemy, provided a Post was allotted to every Man to which he might repair in case of an Emergency.

In any Arrangement of this Nature, whatever the Plan proposed may be, a regular Enrollment of Persons of different Descriptions, to serve in different Capacities, must take place, and a ready Compliance with the Terms of the Enrollment will be expected on the first Notice of their Services being required, under the Hand of, or by Order of the Sheriff of the County.

First, then, with respect to Waggon's, &c. with which no Doubt it would be more desirable that the Farmer should express a Readiness to come forward, than that it should be left to the Chance of becoming a Matter of Compulsion to obtain them, but which, in case of Necessity, must be resorted to: as such Articles, as well as Horses, cannot be easily concealed or kept back, it is scarce worth making any Distinction in the Return between such Persons as are willing or otherwise to come forward with them for the Public Service. — The Articles themselves are to be found, and

that is sufficient: — With respect to the Men, the Case is different; even as to the lowest Description of Labourer or Driver, I should strongly recommend an Enrollment, as a Pledge to the Public, and as a Security to the Commander in Chief for their Services whenever they may be called for.

I should then propose, if it meets the Approbation of the Magistrates, that every Waggon should be considered to require Five Horses (the common Number in use in SUFFOLK) and every Cart Three: that there should be One Driver and a Boy to every Waggon at least, and One Driver to every Cart; that there should be One Parish Conductor to every Four Waggon, whose Business it will be to take care that no Confusion happens among the Drivers or the Waggon over which he may be placed: such Parish Conductor would be better on horseback. To Five times every Four Waggon, a Person of a superior Description should be appointed, who would be responsible for the Number of Twenty Waggon, and who should be of course not only a Man of better than ordinary Capacity, but well mounted also. These would be the Persons with whom the Commissaries, appointed by Government, would have immediate Communication, when the Machine should be once prepared for moving by the Sheriff's Order.

And I cannot but entertain the most sanguine expectations of an Enrollment, such as I have proposed, taking place immediately, when the Farmers have been apprized by the Gentlemen in their respective Neighbourhoods, and Clergy in their respective Parishes, of the Probability of an Attack being made on some part of our Coasts, from the particular Preparations which have for some time past been making in the Enemy's Ports immediately opposite to the County of SUFFOLK.

There is another Point of no less importance, and, I trust, equally within our Reach, which I shall submit at the same time to the Consideration of the Magistrates; to give effect to which, the same Principles and System must be adopted as have been recommended in the Plan for arranging the Corps of Waggon.



In the general Scheme for the Defence of the Eastern District, the greatest Stress has been laid by SIR WILLIAM HOWE upon having a Body of Labourers ready at a short Notice to undertake such Works, in breaking up Roads and felling Trees, as the Service may require: for which Purpose I should propose an Enrollment, if it can be effected, of One Third at least, of those who remain in each Parish, after deducting all those who may be serving in any Military Capacity whatever, or who may be attached to or connected with the Corps of Waggon Drivers: these I should conceive, might be placed under the Care of intelligent Persons, in such Proportion as the Magistrates may think proper, who would also communicate with and act under the Directions of the Commissary appointed by Government, in the same Manner as the Director of Waggon.

Before I conclude, I cannot but recommend, through the Magistrates, to the serious attention of the Land Owners and Farmers within ten Miles of the Coast, the Situation in which every Man will stand who has *not* sent in a Return of his Stock, in case his Property should be laid waste by the Enemy.

Enemy, or destroyed to prevent it from falling into their Hands.. No Reimbursement can be expected, where a proper Return has not been delivered in to the Sheriff or the Lord Lieutenants; in the Cases where an exact Account shall have been delivered in, full Indemnification may be demanded.

With regard to the Price to be paid to the different Descriptions of Persons serving either as Conductors or Directors, Labourers, Superintendants of Labourers, or Drivers, as I am persuaded there will be no difficulty on the part of Government in acceding to whatever the Magistrates may determine upon, so I have no Doubt of their apportioning the Wages according to the different Qualifications of all concerned, in such a way as will tend on the one hand to establish the Authority of those in more responsible Situations, as well as to reconcile those in inferior Situations to their absence from their Families, and to the inconveniencies to which they must be exposed.

I beg the earliest opportunity may be taken of laying this Letter before the Magistrates and Deputy Lieutenants, through whose Zeal aided by that of the Gentry, Clergy and Farmers throughout the County, I should hope this part of our System of Defence may be rendered nearly perfect.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient and very humble Servant,

Euston

To Henry Collett, Esq.

Clerk of the Peace for the

County of Suffolk.

1798.
From A. Hunter to
the City of the House.

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Wagon Dairy Log

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